


Diligent Family Search


Jessica McClary, MSW
Utilization Review Coordinator
Hampton Comprehensive Services Act

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Hampton's Family Finding Taskforce

Part of Hawaiian culture, **ohana** means family in an extended sense of the term including blood-related, adoptive or intentional. It emphasizes that family are bound together and members must cooperate and remember one another.



Hampton's Family Finding Philosophy and Practice

- ❖ The Family Finding model, developed by Kevin Campbell, offers methods and strategies to locate and engage relatives of children and young adults living in out of home care.
- ❖ The goal of Family Finding is to provide each child and young adult with the life-long connections that only family can provide.
- ❖ Core beliefs of Family Finding include every child has a family; loneliness can be devastating and particularly felt by foster children; meaningful connections to a family help a child develop a sense of belonging; and the single most identified factor contributing to positive outcomes for children and young adults involves meaningful connections and life-long relationships with family. (adapted from the Seneca Center website)

Hampton's *Family Finding* Philosophy and Practice

- ❖ Guiding principles of Family Finding include that family finding is a youth-driven process; every young person deserves, and can have, a permanent family; young people have a right to know about their family members and family members have a right to know about their youth; young people should have connections with their biological family, regardless of whether they will live with them, unless there is a compelling reason not to; with support, young people can live in a home with family rather than a foster home or institution; and family and fictive kin should help develop, plan and achieve the young person's permanence. (adapted from Six Steps to Find a Family: A Family Guide to Family Search and Engagement written by Mardith J. Loiusell)

Hampton's *Family Finding* Philosophy and Practice The Six Steps of Family Finding

- ❖ Discovery
- ❖ Engagement (Blended Family Meeting)
- ❖ Planning (Youth Support Team)
- ❖ Decision Making
- ❖ Evaluation
- ❖ Follow-up on Supports (Lifetime Support Network)

Hampton's *Family Finding* Philosophy and Practice Lessons Learned

- ❖ Diligent family searches have greatly impacted the work that we do for our youth and families.
- ❖ There is a great sense of urgency for our youth to have permanent and lifelong connections to their families.
- ❖ "Million Dollar Babies"
- ❖ Our foster care numbers have reduced dramatically over the past five years from over 250 to currently 55.
- ❖ There are more "front end" services being provided which reduces or eliminates youth having to enter care.

Hampton's *Family Finding* Philosophy and Practice
Lessons Learned

- ❖ It is possible to respond to a crisis while preserving and expanding on information and connections that can lead to a restoration of self-sufficiency
- ❖ The typical American child has between 100 – 300 living relatives
- ❖ Technologies and strategies exist to extensively document and locate relatives
- ❖ Families are the most normative setting for raising children

Food for Thought

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage- -to know who we are and where we come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.'

• Alex Haley, *Roots*

Questions

Comments
